New Rail line from Nagapattinam to Velankanni

2606. SHRI O.S. MANIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having any proposal to have a new Railway line from Nagapattinam to Velankanni for a distance of 10 Kms to facilitate the pilgrims going to Velankanni Church from all over the country; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Constraint of resources.

Closure of Caprolactam Plant of FACT

2607. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding closure of Caprolactam plant of FACT;

(b) if so, the reasons for this crisis; and

(c) the steps taken to continue the production and sales?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) to (c) No specific complaint has been received by the Government from the management of FACT regarding closure of its caprolactam plant. During April-July 1996, FACT recorded a production of 8636 MT of caprolactam against the target of 6050 MT.

Consequent to a reduction in the customs duty from 45% to 30% as proposed in the Budget for 1996-97, the indigenous caprolactam industry will have to contend with increased competition from imports.

Import of Urea

2608. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how much urea till date has been imported to fill the gap between demand and supply during 1996-97 as compared no 1995-96, in the country;

(b) which are the foreign agencies involved in import and from which country urea is being imported to Indian indicating FOB price, country-wise quantity of import thereof; and

(c) whether the Indo-Oman fertiliser Joint Venture Ammonia-Urea Fertiliser Plan, is likely to be set up in Oman, if so, by when and what is the present stage of negotiations between the two countries particularly after the Oman Minsiter's visit to India as reported in Hindustan Times [redacted]

Inclusion of Palar River in the River Action Plan

2609. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the reason for not including the Palar river in the list of most critically polluted rivers under the River Action Plan even though it has been highly polluted by tannery effluents in North Arcot Ambedkar, Changai-M.G.R and Madras City?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): Under the National River Conservation Plan, the polluted stretches of the major rivers of the 14 major river basins of India only have been included. The list of the polluted stretches identified after surveys con-

ducted by the Central Pollution Control Board is given in the Statement (See below). The river Palar does not appear in that list.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINSITRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) Druing April-July 1996– 2.88 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs) of urea has been imported. During the corresponding period of 1995-96, 11.94 LMTs had been imported.

(b) The import of urea is canalised through designated Indian agencies only. Quantities of urea imported from different countries during April-July 1996, alongwith their weighted average FOB price are given below:

Country	Qty. In Lmt.	Weighted Average FOB Price per Tonne (In US $)
Bangladesh	0.32	210.00
CIS	0.59	191.50
Kuwait	0.49	176.00
Libya	1.01	169.94
Qatar	0.24	176.00
S. Arabia	0.23	210.00

(c) M/s. Krishak Bharti Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) and Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd. (RCF) are taking necessary steps for setting up a joint venture project in Oman for production of 14.52 lakh tonnes of urea and 3 lakh tonnes of merchant ammonia on an annual basis. Various agreements associated with the project are at an advanced stage of finalisation currently. The project is likely to be commissioned in the first quarter of 2000 A.D.

Statement

Grossly polluted and less polluted stretches of some major national rivers

River	Polluted Stretch	Existing Class	Desired Class	Critical Parameters
I. Grossly Polluted Stretches				
Sabarmati	i) Immediate upstream of Ahmedabad city upto Sabarmati Ashram	E	B	DO, BOD, Coliforms
	ii) Sabarmati Ashram to Veutha	E	D	-do-
Indus (Tributaries)	i) D/S Ludhiana to Harike	Partly D Partly E	C	DO, BOD,
Sutlej	ii) D/S of Nangal	E	C	Ammonia
Yamuna	i) Delhi to confluence with Chambal	Partly D Partly E	C	DO, BOD, Coliforms
	ii) In the city limits of Delhi, Agra and Mathura	-do-	B	-do-
Subarnarekha	Rathi Dam to Baharagora	Partly D Partly E	C	-do-
Godavari	i) D/S of Nasik to Nanded	Partly D Partly E	C	DO, BOD,
	ii) City limits of Nasik and Nanded	-do-	B	-do-
Krishna	Karad to Sangli	Partly D Partly E	C	DO, BOD,

River	Polluted Stretch	Existing Class	Desired Class	Critical Parameters
Chambal	D/S of Nagda & D/S Kota (approx 15 kms both the places)	Partly D Partly E	C	DO, BOD,
Damodar	D/S of Dhanbad to Haldia	Partly D Partly E	C	BOD, Toxic
Gomti	Lucknow to confluence with Ganga	Partly D Partly E	C	DO, BOD, Coliforms
Kali	D/S of Modinagar to confluence with Ganga	Partly D Partly E	C	-do-
Khan	i) In the city limites of Indore	E	B	-do-
	ii) D/S of Indore	E	D	-do-
Kshipra	i) In the city limits of Ujjain	E	B	-do-
	ii) D/S of Ujjain	E	D	-do-
Hindon	Saharanpur to conlfluence with Yamuna	E	D	DO, BOD, Toxic
II. Less Grossly Polluted Stretches				
Baiterni	Upstream of Chandbali	D	B	BOD & Coliforms
Krishna	i) Dhom Dam to Narso Babari (Maharashtra)	D	C	BOD & Coliforms
	ii) Tributary Streams (Maharashtra)	D	C	-do-
	iii) Upto Naga-Arjun Sagar Dam and from that Dam to Upstream of Repella (Andhra Pradesh)	D	C	BOD & Coliforms
Bhadra	Origin to downstream of KICCL of Bhadra Dam (Karnataka)	D	C	Total Coliforms
Brahmini	Upstreams of Dharmashalla	D	C	BOD & Coliforms
Tunga	Thirthahalli to confluence with Bhadra	C	B	Total Coliforms
Cauveri	i) From Talakkavari to 5 Kms of Mysore District Border Yagani (Karnataka)			
	ii) From KR Sagar Dam to Hogenekkal (Karnataka)			
	iii) From Pugalur to Grand Anicut (Tamil Nadu)			
	iv) From Grand Anicut to Kumtakonam (Tamil Nadu)			
Tapi	from city limits of Nepanagar to the city limits of Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh)			

River	Polluted Stretch	Existing Class	Desired Class	Critical Parameters
Narmada	Along the city limits of Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)			
Betwa	Between Vidisha and Mandideep and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)			

Note: Classification of water quality is as under:

A Drinking water source without conventional treatment but after disinfection
B Outdoor bathing
C Drinking water sources with conventional treatment followed by disinfection
D Propagation of wild life
E Irrigation, industrial cooling, and waste disposal

Fuelwood and Fooder Projects in Maharashtra

2610. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the Area-Oriented Fuelwood and Fooder Projects in the State of Maharashtra, particularly in its drought prone areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) details of the Central Funds made available for these projects during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the funds for these projects to implement them more vigorously; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme of Area-Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects is being implemented in the State of Maharashtra as a 50% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. A total area of 4234 ha. has been covered during the period 1993-94 to 1995-96 in the drought prone districts of Ahmednagar, Nasik, Pune, Solapur and Jalgaon. In addition the scheme is also being implemented in the identified fuelwood deficit districts of Thane and Parbhani.

(c) Yearwise details of central funds made available for these districts during the last three years are:—

Year	Amount released (Rupees in Lakh)	Utilised
1993-94	—	49.94*
1994-95	69.38	62.42
1995-96	72.20	69.71

*This includes Rs. 45 lakhs available as unspent balance of 1990-91.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has proposed an increase in the outlay for the Scheme in the Ninth Five Year Plan period. The allocation will be known on finalisation of the Ninth Plan.

Filling-up the post of Principal for Post-Graduate Colleges in Uttar Pradesh

2611. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than twenty posts of Principal for Post-Graduate Colleges were advertised by Uttar Pradesh Hjgher Education Service Commission in January, 1995 and the posts have not yet been filled up;